

(U.S. Patent No. 5,537,766). Based upon the Declarations submitted by the inventors under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

Enclosed herewith are Declarations under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131(a) by each of the inventors in the instant application. It is noted that the patent to Waalkes has a filing date of May 15, 1997. As stated by the applicants in their Declarations, their invention was conceived prior to May 15, 1997 and the inventors were diligent in preparing and filing the parent application to this present continuation application which claims benefit of the earlier filed parent application (Serial No. 08/864,138 filed May 28, 1997.) Therefore, the Waalkes patent is not a reference which can be used in rejecting any claims of the present application. As all the claims are rejected either alone or in combination with the Waalkes patent, is respectfully submitted that the claims are allowable over the prior art of record. Thus a favorable action allowing the claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants are also submitting herewith a Petition for Extension of Time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 (a) for a period of two (2) months up to and including August 15, 2002.

In the event that the Examiner is of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite allowance and issuance of this application, he is invited to call the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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